

# Green Gram

King County Solid Waste Division

Earth Day Issue

Spring 1998

## OUR PLANET IS THE BEST! LET'S CELEBRATE WITH EARTH DAY!

Good planets are hard to find! So let's take care of the one we have. Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and we have put together a bunch of cool project and activity ideas for your Green Team. Here's a quick list:



**Organize** a poetry, essay, or poster competition celebrating the earth or the environment. **Sponsor** a swap meet (toys, books, etc.) in your school or community. **Integrate** environmental issues into all lessons. **Show** videos about the environment. **Read** stories with environmental themes such as The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. **Create** an All Species Parade or a Trash Monster. **Build** a sculpture from recyclables. **Paint** a mural. **Hold** an environmental fair. **Invite** speakers and elected officials to talk about environmental issues. Have students **write** letters about an issue that matters to them.

**Organize** a "pledge drive."  
**Write** promises to improve the



environment through waste reduction or recycling efforts on re-used paper "leaves" that can then be placed on a "Human-i-tree" or painted onto a poster or mural.

Another "Humanitree" waste reduction and reuse project for Earth Day is - Decorate brown grocery bags with Earth Day and reuse messages.



## HERE'S ONE SPECIAL WASTE REDUCTION SCHOOL PROJECT TO DO ON EARTH DAY!

Do an environmental survey of your school. Look to see what's being wasted --water, paper, food, energy. Let other students know what you find out and make suggestions on how your school could use fewer resources. Find ways to put your solutions into action to help cut down on



garbage, save water and electricity, and reduce overall use. Beautify your school grounds by planting trees, shrubs or flowers.



## Plant A Tree for Earth Day

### HERE ARE SOME MORE EARTH FRIENDLY EARTH DAY PROJECTS.

**Grow** trees and plants from seed.

**Set up** an organic garden and a compost pile at your school.

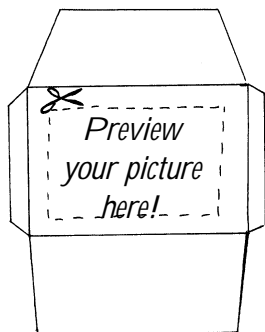
**Survey** how many different kinds of

plants, animals, and insects live around your schoolyard. **Draw** pictures of them. **Organize** a cleanup of the schoolyard or a local park. **Visit** a landfill and a recycling center to learn about different ways to deal with waste. **Arrange** a tour of a local energy facility. **Survey** what kind of garbage washes up on a beach or riverbank. **Visit** a nature center, wetland, and wilderness area, natural history or science museum. **Take** a trip to a local organic farm.



### Paper Re-use Innovation from a Great Green Team Advisor

Thanks to **Kay Moilanen** at **Campbell Hill Elementary**, our Paper Reuse Activity, re-creating an envelope from any ol' scrap paper, just got better. Using a template made from a cereal box (nice thickness and durable for lots of re-uses), Kay cut out a window in the center of the template. This window allows students to preview what will show in the front of the envelope. What a great idea. Try it!



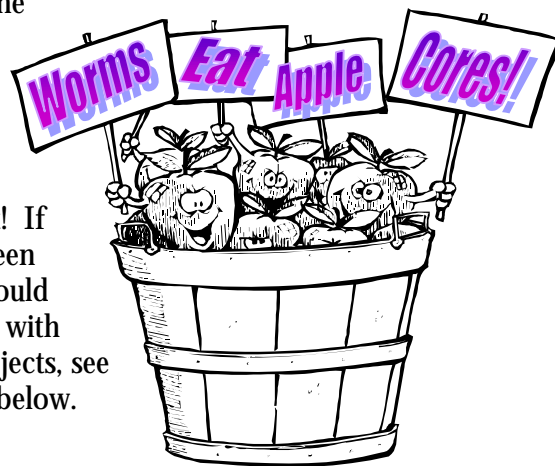
### GREAT GREEN TEAMS IN ACTION

**Chris Andrews** at **Mirror Lake**

**Elementary School** reports that his class thought of a great new reduce, reuse, recycle idea. The students made mailboxes for their desks by reusing 2-liter plastic bottles and decorating them with old homework papers. The students are still coming up with new ideas on how to reuse soda bottles. Their next project is to make planters and Mother's Day baskets. Way to go, Green Team!



The Green Team at **Westhill Elementary** meets after school to work on environmental projects. On March 6, they invited **Wiz Kid René** to come to their meeting and help them start a worm bin. René brought a demonstration worm bin, provided red worms for their new bin and led a workshop teaching students how to start and maintain a bin, take care of the worms, and harvest the fertile compost! If your Green Team would like help with their projects, see the box below.



Hey, Green Teams! The deadline for awards and recognition is fast approaching (May 15, 1998), so send in those applications! If you don't have a water bottle application or need an extension, just call René. René is also available to come to your school to work with your Green Team. Just call

**206-583-0655**